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FM AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0682  
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0519  
RUEHGH/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 0120  
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 0130  
RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU 0118  
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 0164  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC 0174  
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SUBJECT: Suzhou Party Secretary Likely to be Named New Shenzhen Mayor

Ref: A) GUANGZHOU 355

¶1. Summary: Media reports from Hong Kong predict that Suzhou Party Secretary Wang Rong will become mayor of Shenzhen after the fall of Xu Zongheng due to corruption charges. Some speculate Wang will soon move up to become the city's party secretary. End summary.

From Suzhou to Shenzhen  
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¶2. Two Hong Kong newspapers -- one the Communist Party's mouthpiece there, Wen Wei Po -- reported that Jiangsu Province Standing Committee Member and Suzhou Municipal Party Secretary Wang Rong would fill the vacancy left by the removal of Shenzhen Mayor Xu Zongheng for alleged corruption (reftel). Hong Kong newspaper Ming Pao also speculated that Wang would be appointed Guangdong Standing Committee Member concurrently with his mayoral position. Xinhua announced today that Xu's official removal proceedings were underway.

Mayor's Office Just a Springboard?  
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¶3. Wen Wei Po also cited an unnamed source in Shenzhen as speculating that Beijing really wants to make Wang Shenzhen party secretary, not mayor, potentially limiting Wang's tenure as mayor. Another Wen Wei Po source said Wang might encumber both party and administrative principal positions to remedy Shenzhen's history of friction between the two jobs.

Vice Mayor Yan Apparently Survives  
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¶4. Vice Mayor Yan Xiaopei, who was also under investigation, appeared in an official meeting in Shenzhen yesterday, suggesting that she will not suffer the same fate as Xu.

Biographic Information  
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¶5. Wang is 51 and hails from Binhai, Jiangsu. He has served as party secretary of Suzhou since 2004 and is also an alternate member of the CPC Central Committee. Wang was the mayor and then party secretary of Wuxi from 2001 to 2003. He became the director general of the Jiangsu Education Department in 2000, the deputy director general of the Jiangsu Agriculture Department and CPPCC Standing Committee member in 1999, and the president of the Jiangsu Agricultural Science Academy in 1997. Wang spent much of his career in academic circles. From 1988 to 1996, Wang served at Nanjing Agriculture University, ultimately attaining the post of vice president. Wang received his bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees from Nanjing Agriculture College. His research focused on rural resources economy and economic development theories and

policies.

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